



भारतीय विधिज्ञ परिषद् BAR COUNCIL OF INDIA

(Statutory Body Constituted under the Advocates Act, 1961)

21, Rouse Avenue Institutional Area, Near Bal Bhawan, New Delhi - 110002

BCI:D:375/...../2026

Date: 18.06.2026

To,

All newly elected Members of the State Bar Councils and
All the sitting Members of State Bar Councils

Also Through

The Secretary, State Bar Council/s

Sub.: Consultation regarding criteria for co-option of two women members in
State Bar Councils pursuant to proceedings before the Hon'ble Supreme
Court of India.

Sir/Ma'am,

This is to inform you that the issue relating to representation of women advocates in State Bar Councils, including the manner and criteria for co-option of two women members in State Bar Councils, is presently under consideration before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

In the hearing held on 16.06.2026 in W.P. No. 1319/2023, M. Varadhan Vs Union of India & ors., the Hon'ble Supreme Court was pleased to take note of the proposal placed on behalf of the Bar Council of India regarding co-option of women members in State Bar Councils. The Hon'ble Court indicated that the proposal of co-opting the highest-polling unsuccessful women candidates in the State Bar Council elections though appeared to be a fair suggestion. However, the Hon'ble Court has directed the Bar Council of India to consult the stakeholders, with regard to criterias for co-option and place its report before the Hon'ble Court. The matter is now fixed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court on 14.07.2026.

All elected members are, therefore, requested to send their considered views and suggestions, if any, on the above tentative criteria. The views may be sent to the Bar Council of India latest by 05.07.2026, on bciinfo21@gmail.com with subject heading **"Co-option suggestions--(write self name and Bar Council name)"** so that the same may be compiled and appropriately considered before the report is placed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court on the next date of hearing, i.e.14.07.2026.

The cooperation of all elected members is requested in ensuring that the mechanism finally placed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court is fair, transparent, uniform, workable and in conformity with law.

Srimanto Sen
Principal Secretary
Bar Council of India